

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 Newsletter

Tucson First

January 4, 2016

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TPD Air Support Unit



Over the past week, there was a flurry of media coverage related to the TPD chopper unit. Lupita Murillo from KVOA did a nice piece on it, though the information flow to her and others was slow in coming. Sunday's Star reporter Caitlin Schmidt filled in many of the blanks. In case you missed those reports, I'll close the loop here.

You've seen the chopper unit flying over your neighborhood plenty of times. The chopper provides added eyes for the officers on the street. This enhances safety for both the public and for TPD officers. It's an important service for us to be able to offer.

The safety record of the Air Support Unit (ASU – nothing I can do about that unfortunate acronym) is stellar, and the commitment to maintaining it that way by the officers in the unit is second to none. That's why a Christmas Eve email from the Chief notifying us that they were taking the unit out of service for "a few weeks" came as an unfortunate shock.

The unit is made up of three Bell helicopters and one fixed-wing aircraft. It's over-



Important Phone Numbers

**Tucson Police
Department**
911 or nonemergency
791-4444

Water Issues
791-3242/800-598-9449
Emergency: 791-4133

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Graffiti Removal
792-2489

**Abandoned
Shopping Carts**
791-3171

**Neighborhood
Resources**
837-5013

SunTran/SunLink
792-9222
TDD: 628-1565

**Environmental
Services**
791-3171

Park Wise
791-5071

**Planning and
Development
Services** 791-5550

**Pima Animal Care
Center**
724-5900

**Pima County Vector
Control**
Cockroach: 443-6501
Mosquito: 243-7999

Continued: A Message From Steve

seen by a sergeant, six pilots, a couple of tactical flight officers, and two certified mechanics. The workers began bringing concerns (coined “complaints” in the Chief’s email) forward last August. Unable to resolve the issues internally, an audit was commissioned in late November, the results of which arrived shortly thereafter.

I’ve seen the summary sheet of the audit and from all appearances it looks as though most of the issues were simply translating our current operating procedures into written form in the operating manual. There’s an internal group making those changes and working through some of the other items noted by the audit. The safety of the ASU should not be questioned as a result of any of this.

Caitlin’s article, which was based on the full audit report, not just the summary sheet I had access to, made it sound as though the internal issues are of greater significance than simply updating standard operating procedure (SOP) language.

Do I think these changes should have been addressed well ahead of Christmas Eve? Yep. The timeframe of August to commissioning the audit in late November should have left plenty of time to update an SOP manual and make the other changes called out in the audit that are evidently not being questioned by anyone in the agency. Is there a need to do a better job in keeping the public informed about what’s going on with such an important unit? Yep, and I know the City Manager has the attention of all involved. Incoming Chief Magnus will arrive in mid-January, and based on what’s being reported now, the unit will be operating on a ‘low-risk status’ at that time, with some remaining organizational issues to resolve. Is there a need to up our game in terms of interagency communications with Pima County Sheriff’s Department when something like this comes up? Based on comments we’ve seen in the press coming from Sheriff Nanos, yep. I’m sure those protocols are already engaged as a result of this past week.

I appreciate the work this unit does on behalf of the public and on behalf of the officers on the ground. Keeping it at the high standards of performance at which it has always operated is front and center for all of the workers associated with it. If there are issues beyond the policy protocols that need to be addressed, they need the full attention of all involved so there’s no question about the reliability of this unit.

TFD Year-End Report



Our other public safety agencies recently issued its year-end report. I want to share some of the highlights, partially as a way of trumpeting the great work they do at TFD and partially as a way of preparing for the FY’17 budget discussions.

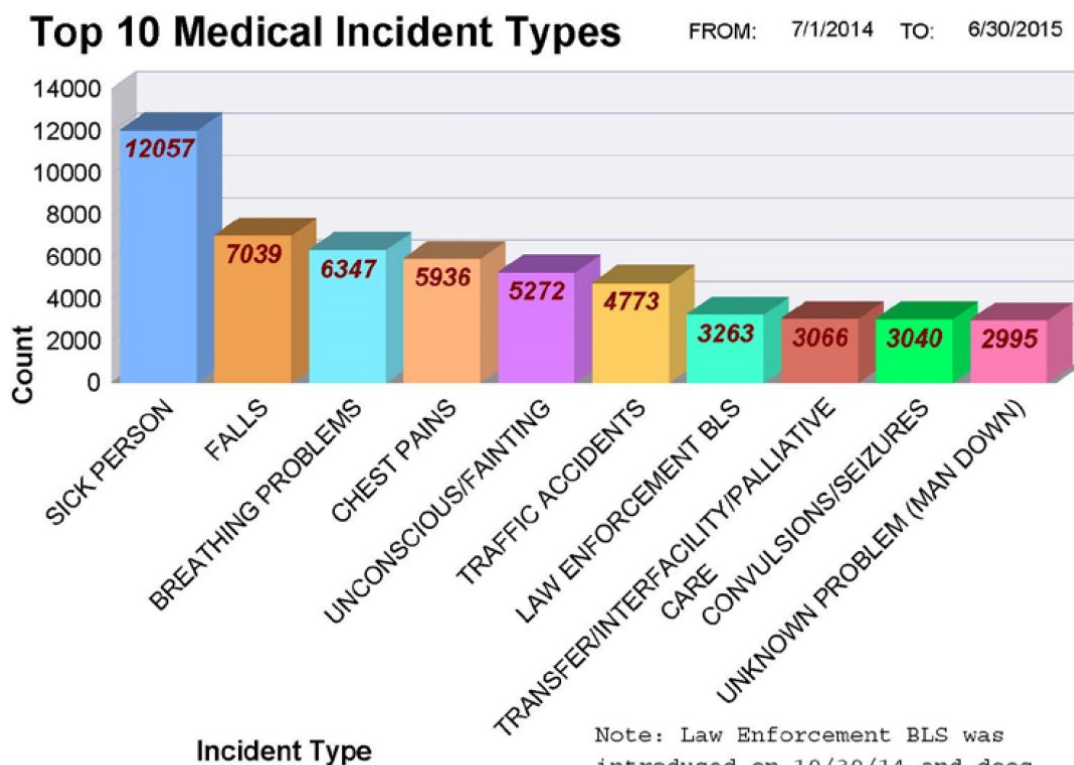
Fire didn’t increase its allowed staff between FY’14 and FY’15. Look on the next page for a chart that shows the numbers.

Number of FTEs	FY 2014 Actuals	FY 2015 Adopted
Commissioned	619.00	619.00
Civilian	134.50	134.50
Total Number of FTEs	753.50	753.50

Most of what they do is medically related. Here's a chart showing, by Ward, how the calls broke down. The first column is advanced life support (ALS), the second is basic life support (BLS), and fire suppression calls (Fire) are in the third column. As you can see, that's a lot of running around for those units.

	ALS	BLS	Fire	Totals
Ward 1	6571	4711	1115	12397
Ward 2	7460	5581	1126	14167
Ward 3	9092	6697	1389	17178
Ward 4	4484	3255	927	8666
Ward 5	7383	4926	1433	13742
Ward 6	9209	6713	2147	18069
Totals	44199	31883	8137	84219

And here's how the medical calls shake out in terms of type of issue being dealt with:



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman Martha McSally (R)
(2nd District)
(202) 225-2542
Tucson Office: 520-881-3588

Congressman Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Doug Ducey (R)
602-542-4331
Tucson office:
520-628-6580

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
520-791-4201

ZoomTucson Map
<http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/>

Just getting there isn't the whole story. Response time is critical, especially for the serious medical conditions TFD deals with. Here's how they did on that metric:

Top 4 ALS Time Dependent Call Types		
Type	# of Incidents	Avg. Response Time
Cardiac Arrest	496	4:37
STEMI/Heart Attack	149	4:47
Stroke	741	5:03
Trauma/Injury	9,203	5:33

Adding in the rest of the medical calls, and fire too, here's how we did in comparison to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards:

NFPA 1710 Response Times			
FY2015	Unit Response Time - Medical	Unit Response Time - Fire	Full Force (15 firefighters on scene)
Goal	90% / 6:12	90% / 6:32	90% / 9:20
Actual % met	85%	80%	100%
Actual time at 90%	6:42	7:55	7:05

The men and women who work at TFD, including their 911 support staff at the communications center, have a lot to be proud of in those numbers. Our job is to make sure they have the equipment to continue meeting the high NFPA standards. That's a budget issue, and one we cannot ignore. I've previously shared data related to the condition of fire vehicles. The most current information comes from the annual report. Here's how TFD reports on its own vehicle status:

Pumper Fleet – 38 Vehicles

Current Average Age	10.8 years
Projected Age at Retirement	16.5 years
Total Pumper Fleet Mileage	4,014,918
Average Unit Mileage	105,655.74
Units over 100K miles	50%
Units over 150K miles	13%

URGENT

URGENT

Medic Fleet – 30 Vehicles

Current Average Age	10 years
Projected Age at Retirement	15.8 years
Total Medic Fleet Mileage	4,033,690
Average Unit Mileage	134,456
Units over 100K miles	87%
Units over 150K miles	37%

URGENT

Ladder Fleet – 12 Vehicles

Current Average Age	14.3 years
Projected Age at Retirement	20.8 years
Total Ladder Fleet Mileage	961,556
Average Unit Mileage	80,130
Units over 100K miles	25%
Units over 150K miles	0



You can't buy any of this equipment off the shelf. The lead time on ordering and receiving delivery is years, not months. I know there's some interest in bonding for other causes and needs we have, but for me, this and updating our TPD vehicles and equipment is of prime importance. Those needs are not aesthetic – they're lives.

On Tuesday, we'll start the new year with a discussion of funding options. I asked for this item as a way of laying out the various sources of revenue we have in order to meet not only the public safety vehicle needs, but others that exist in the community after the failure of the November bonds. We'll soon see what the priorities are at the M&C table. For me, this public safety equipment is at the top of the list.

To close out these two opening items, if there was any question as to which of our employees put their safety on the line daily, according to the most recent annual report from our Risk Management Department, last year police workers accounted for 227 of our workers comp claims, fire employees were 132 of them, and all other departments combined had 265 workers compensation claims.

Gun Safety

On the public safety theme, I might as well start off the new year with a couple of gun safety items – one local, and the other, well, in the Christmas spirit. Did you know you can ship a gun to somebody through the mail, UPS or FedEx? What could possibly go wrong with that?

Over the past few weeks, the UPS drivers all over the country have been running around delivering packages on overdrive. In Elk Grove, California there was a 15-year-old kid hoping to have a new 'tablet' (computer, not a pill) for Christmas, and when the driver pulled up with a package the kid figured, well, it must be the tablet coming from grandma.

When the young guy unwrapped it, inside was a .45 caliber revolver. Nice that there was no background, age, or identity check done before the driver departed the scene. Thankfully, the kid was astute enough to show his mom who called UPS back and sent the gun packing to its correct destination. The mistake hit particularly close to home for this family. A



quote from the mother – “my cousin, unfortunately, accidentally shot his wife in front of the family. It was a mistake.” A statement from UPS said, “This is a highly unusual incident and we take this very seriously. Our employee did not follow proper delivery procedures. We will address this issue with that person to ensure such errors are not repeated.” And everyone’s glad the kid’s alive.

Sahurita, just down the road – on December 9th a guy was getting ready to head off to the firing range. He put a round into the magazine of his gun, which then entered the chamber when the magazine was shoved into the gun. The guy got distracted and when he took out the magazine he forgot about the round that was then in the chamber. Before heading out, he fired what he thought was a ‘dry round’ and hit his dog in the mouth.

Per Duval Animal Hospital, the pooch lost some teeth, and had the expected lacerations to his mouth.

In both cases, ‘accidents happen.’



City Shopping Cart Program

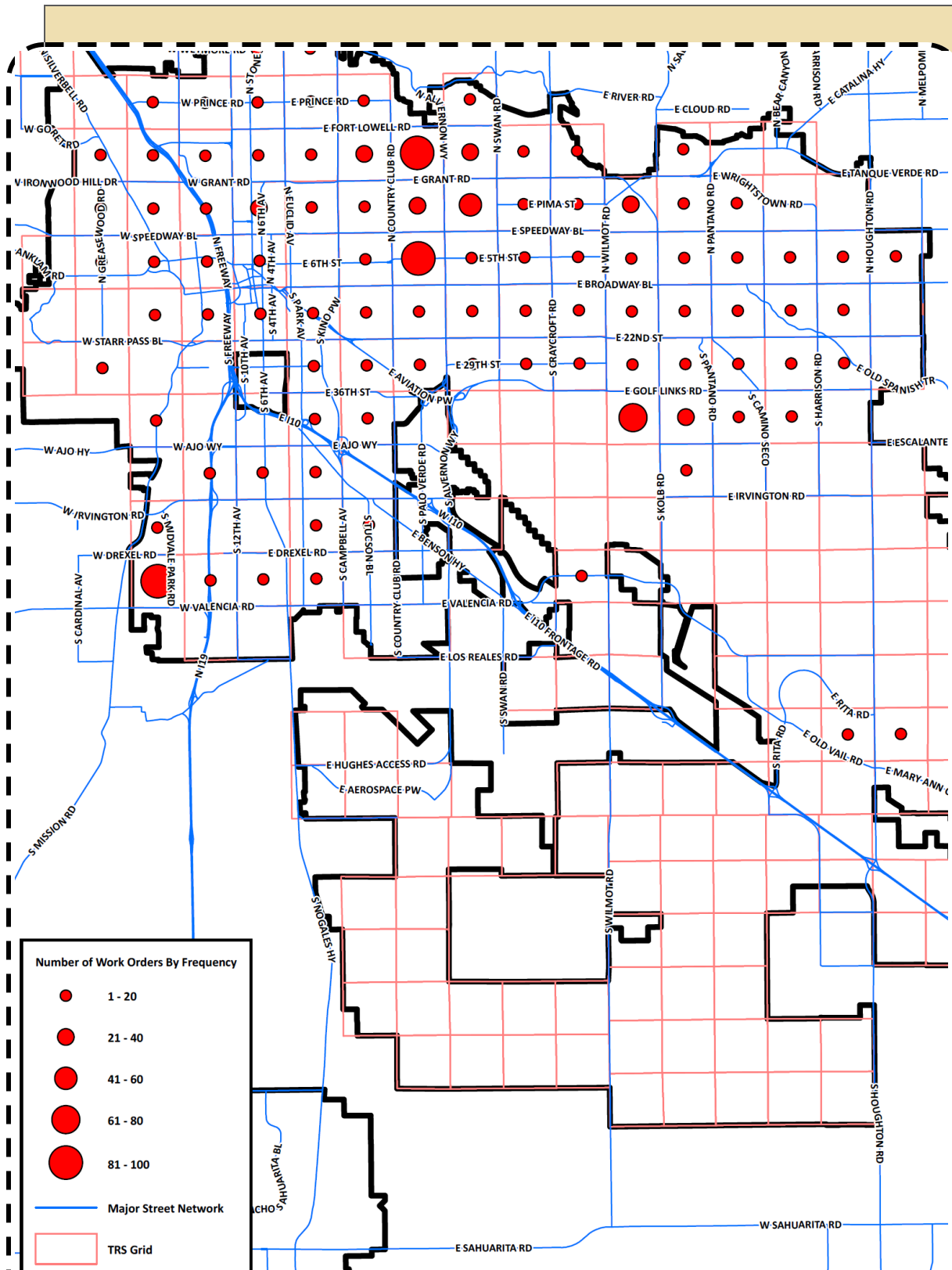
Back in October of 2013, M&C adopted a shopping cart collection program in an effort to curb what was becoming a true blight on several midtown and southwest side neighborhoods: stolen shopping carts abandoned in rights-of-way, washes, and around bus stops. In retrospect, I’d like to thank Midvale Park Neighborhood President Joe Miller for the hard work he put into getting this program up and off the ground.

The program is run out of our Environmental Services (ES) Department. In part due to their success in managing this program, we’re openly considering shifting a couple of other similar community-focused programs to ES. (graffiti and code enforcement – more on that as we approach the budget, though).

We’re under contract with Arizona Cart Service (ACS) to do periodic sweeps of targeted areas, collect the abandoned carts, and impound them until they’re claimed by the retailer involved. Without getting into all of the details of the program, the hope has been to enlist the help of retailers in policing their own carts. At the time we passed the ordinance, the Metro Chamber came out in support, noting the visual impact on neighborhoods as a key improvement we all hoped to see. The pre-scheduled sweeps are an addition to the program, moving it away from relying on the previous complaint-driven process.

I’ve included a map that shows the distribution of retrieval work orders that came from citizen calls to notify E.S. of abandoned carts last year on the next page.

During the second year of the program, we increased the number of carts collected from about 300 up to 1,470. The number of complaints decreased by about 10% per month. We’ll continue the pre-planned, proactive sweeps into the trouble spots and see if those trends continue in the right direction.



I know one of the reoccurring criticisms of our code enforcement and graffiti programs is that they rely on residents calling in complaints before the City takes action. I understand the frustration. I also understand that we don't have the staff to be out patrolling neighborhoods and finding all of the graffiti tags, abandoned couches, and other code violations you advise us of. We're in this together. The idea of moving graffiti abatement and code en-

forcement over to ES is largely driven by the desire to shift costs out of the General Fund. Since ES is an enterprise department, self-funded, costs associated with programs under their watch are covered by your waste collection fees. Those held steady last year due to efficiencies in how the department is managed. When/if we make the move on these two programs I will want it to be very clear ahead of time the impact it will have on rates you pay ES and what ideas we may bring to the table for becoming more efficient in how we handle graffiti and code issues. It cannot simply be a cost-shift that ends up with you paying more on your ES monthly bills. We can do better than that – the shopping cart program is an example.

Environmental Services anted up money to help get the mural art program pilot started. That'll help with graffiti. Tucson Electric Power has begun a relationship with Graffiti Protective Coatings to contract out abatement on a test basis, hoping to see a faster response in abating tags at no added cost to their rate payers. I'm still hoping to see other utilities jump on board with that. We can do better than just throwing *your* money at the code-related problems. We have some very committed citizen groups working to provide ideas to improve. As was the case with Joe Miller's work, we've got examples of how that'll pay off for the greater long term good of the City, the residents, and our budget.

Other Local Revenue Sources



It'll take a while to sort out the overall economic impact of the Nova Home Loans Arizona Bowl, but there's no question it was a good bump for the local hospitality industry.

The game fell between Christmas and New Year's. That's a typically dead time for hotels, car rentals, and restaurants. This year we had people visiting from Colorado and Nevada. They brought room occupancy rates up in the hotels I checked with from the usual 33% up to

north of 70%. Even if for only a few days, that's found money. The same is true of the other businesses that benefit from tourism trade.

In the stadium we had just over 20,000 sold tickets. Many more were given out by the Bowl Committee to needy youth in the community. Nonprofits will benefit from proceeds realized from ticket sales. These are among the reasons I was disappointed to see Tucson lose the Insight.com Bowl. It's great to see us back in the bowl business. There's talk of dropping some from the quantity the NCAA now recognizes. As long as we're one of the games left standing, that'll only make the Tucson bowl more attractive and of more importance to our local businesses that will see the impact.

Tucson Gem & Mineral Show

Speaking of positive impacts on the local hotel industry and on the local economy, the Gem Show's about to kick off the



2016 edition. This year we're expecting to host 44 separate shows all around town. They'll run from January 30th until February 14th. I wonder if there's any history to it bracketing Valentine's Day...my bride wants this one:



One of the major players in hosting the shows is the Visit Tucson staff. Together with the City, they'll stage the annual kickoff party and press conference on Friday, January 29th at 3 p.m. at the east entrance of the TCC. As you're certainly aware, the TCC houses two major shows during the two weeks of the event. From the City end, Andy Squire is the lead dog in facilitating the shows on City property, as well as working to arrange the transportation services that will support the shows.



For a full rundown on this year's events, check the Visit Tucson website at www.tucsongemshow.org. The impact on the local economy cannot be overstated.

Event Sponsorships

As the new year starts, I'm happy to be involved in promoting two events that'll occur in Ward 6 soon. One has to do with animals, and the other is in support of Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse. First, the critters...

At a recent gathering in Palo Verde Neighborhood, Donna Deconcini and I struck up a conversation about her 501(c)(3), Food for Horses. Since then, Patty Machelor from the Star has done a nice piece on its work gathering food and supplies for all types of domestic animals and donating them to the needy. On Saturday, January 16th we'll be holding a "donate-a-thon" at the corner of Speedway and Camino Miramonte. People will be encouraged to bring by dog, cat, horse, and other animal feed and supplies so Food for Horses can distribute them to people who are having a tough time supplying their own. Here's a flyer for the event:

Founded in 2013, this nonprofit is focused on stopping the abandonment of animals by people who can no longer afford to feed their pets. They also support rescue agencies as they work to meet their responsibilities in taking care of the dogs and cats in their care. The source for the revenues is donations plus money raised through food

Food For Horses & Ward 6 Council Member Steve Kozachik

will be holding an animal food

Donate-a-thon

Community Giving & Sharing for Animals

Saturday 16th January

10:00am to 3:00pm

East Speedway & N. Camino Miramonte

- **Introducing Animal Rescues** •
 - **Live Music** •
 - **Great Raffle** •
 - **Local Artists** •
- **Tucson Food Truck Rally** •
- **Faces by Mary** •
- **Twisted Sisters Balloons** •



Every 5lbs of animal food you donate
you will receive a free Raffle ticket.

For more information 520-982-2645

truck rallies like the one we'll feature on the 16th. Long term, Food for Horses' hope is to establish a community food bank geared towards animals.

Stop by if you can and bring a can, bag, or blanket you can contribute to this cause.

Glassblowing for a Cause



...and on 4th Avenue over the first weekend in February, Micah Blatt and Mr. Heads will be hosting this year's Desert Fire Charity Drive, dubbed the Arizona Project. Here's a little background.

I spoke to Micah just before Christmas about the event and how we could use the proceeds from the glass art they'll create over the weekend in support of local kids in need and in an art setting. The first thing that came to mind is the work Ed Mecurio-Sakwa and his staff at Emerge! are doing through a program called Windows between Worlds. The program is art therapy for kids who are victims of household domestic abuse. The three of us spoke (yes, I can arrange a conference call on my flip phone), and we all agreed that the program fits the mission of the glass community and their desire to touch the lives of kids in need through art.



On Friday the 5th, they'll begin the event in support of the Sonoran Glass School, keeping the teaching of the skill front and center. Then on Saturday and Sunday you can stop by Mr. Heads and see the artists creating pieces they'll sell to support the Emerge! program. They'll start at noon each day and go late into the evening.

I'll continue to help get the word out about this event – very creative art combined with a very worthy program. I hope you can find some time over that weekend, go check out the gallery and spend a few bucks to help the work Ed's group's doing in the community. The event will take place at 513 N 4th Ave.

TREO Clarification

I'll close with this. Last week, the Star ran a piece about county funding for what's now referred to as Sun Corridor. It used to be TREO (Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities). The City used to fund it, but that stopped a few years ago. The reason we stopped relates to the part of the article that needs clarification.

We used to get an annual report from TREO. In it, they'd indicate activities in which they had participated over the previous year and would note new jobs brought into the region. The issue I had with the manner in which the reports came to us was that the 'activities' were very general, but the cause and effect claims between them and the new jobs were implicitly direct. That is, TREO took credit for bringing the jobs based on what we saw in the reports.

I felt we should have more specificity in not only the work done on behalf of recruiting employers who ended up here, but also who those employers were and the impact of the new jobs on the local economy. We were told there were non-disclosure agreements that

prevented any more transparency than what we saw in the reports.

In the Star article, I was correctly quoted as saying we needed more transparency if we are going to be allocating taxpayer money. That obviously does not include making information public when negotiations and early contacts are in play. Clearly companies looking to relocate don't need to be splashed across their hometown newspapers. But once the move has been made and TREO starts claiming credit for the move, non-disclosure becomes moot and the conversation changes to how we measure our continued funding of the agency given the credit they claim. If the City were still funding Sun Corridor, I'd be asking for that level of clarity now, too. We're spending your cash and that cannot be done 'stealthily.'

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events and Entertainment

Jack Hanna's *Into the Wild, Live!*

Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St

Thursday, January 7, 2016 – 6:30 pm

<https://foxtucsontheatre.ticketforce.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=740>

Animal expert Jack Hanna brings his two-time Emmy Award winning television series to the live stage at the Fox Theater. Meet spectacular animals in person and see amazing footage from his worldwide adventures.

Tucson Jazz Festival

Various downtown Tucson locations

January 14 through 24

Hear live, world-class jazz in Tucson. See <http://tucsonjazzfestival.org/> for date, time, and ticket information.

There's Still Time to TreeCycle

If you're still looking for a way to dispose of your real Christmas tree, you can bring it to one of nine TreeCycle sites throughout the community through Jan. 12. Bring your own container and take home free Merry Mulch (wood chips) from shredded Christmas trees at Udall Park, Randolph Golf Course, and the Los Reales Landfill. <http://1.usa.gov/1mwiebZ>.

Ongoing

Mission Garden, 929 W Mission Ln

Saturdays 8 am – 12 pm, April to November; 12 pm – 4 pm, December to March

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S 6th Ave

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturday & Sunday: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way

<http://www.tucsonbotanical.org>

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St

<http://hotelcongress.com>

Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd

www.loftcinema.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St

<http://www.rialtotheatre.com/>

The Rogue Theatre at The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd

<http://www.theroguetheatre.org/main.htm>

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E University Blvd

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S Scott Ave

<http://www.arizonatheatre.org/>

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave

www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org

Meet Me at Maynards, 311 E Congress St (north entrance on Toole)

A social walk/run through the Downtown area. Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Hotel Congress Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd

February 7, 2015– February 7, 2016, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

"Meet the Trilobites – Arizona's First Inhabitants," the new exhibit at the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium, features world-class trilobite fossils from around the globe.

<http://www.uamineralmuseum.org/>

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 11:00am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm

<http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org>